



Rockville RainScapes Rewards Conservation Landscaping Rebate Application

Conservation landscaping is the removal of turf grass and non-native invasives and replacement with native plant species that have more extensive, deeper root systems. This, coupled with soil improvement and adequate mulching, helps slow the flow of stormwater runoff, allow for more groundwater recharge, and trap nutrients and other pollutants in the soil for uptake by the plants.

The City of Rockville offers two rebate options for conservation landscaping (see *Design Guidelines* for details.)

- **\$2 per square foot of area converted up to \$1,200** for projects that include **soil improvement**.
- **\$1 per square foot of area converted up to \$750** for projects **without soil improvement**.

Who Is Eligible

- ✓ Projects must be installed at a private single family residence, homeowners association, condominium association, housing cooperative or other non-profit property located in the City of Rockville.
- ✓ Projects will **not** qualify for rebates if they are partially or completely finished before approval.
- ✓ Projects are **not** eligible if they are associated with permit approval requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- ✓ All requirements must be met as outlined below, in the application, and in the *Design Criteria and Guidelines for Project Eligibility* (attached). All decisions are final and are at the sole discretion of the City of Rockville.

Application Process & Requirements

- 1. Submit your application, property owner agreement, and other attachments.**
Complete the online application found at www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes. Send the Property Owner Agreement and additional attachments (organization approval, photos, sketches, etc.) to the RainScapes Coordinator at rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov or mail to the address above. Paper applications are available upon request.
- 2. Receive application approval from RainScapes Coordinator.**
Wait to receive application approval from the RainScapes Coordinator before beginning the project. Please allow three weeks for processing. Projects must be completed within six (6) months of approval.
- 3. Begin and complete your project.**
You must retain and submit itemized receipts and/or final invoices for all project costs. Documented costs must equal or exceed the rebate amount requested. The project must adhere to the most recent Design Guidelines.
- 4. Final inspection.**
Call or email the City of Rockville RainScapes Coordinator at 240-314-8877 or rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov to schedule a final inspection. Inspections will generally be scheduled within ten (10) business days. Submit itemized receipts and/or final invoice for all project costs. Photocopies are acceptable. At the final inspection, installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
- 5. Receive reimbursement check.**
If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the City of Rockville's Department of Finance within three to six weeks.

Special thanks to the Montgomery County RainScapes Program for sharing their curriculum and text.

Design Guidelines

Issue Date 9/2015

*** These guidelines will be periodically updated to ensure currency with the latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version. ***

Project Type	Rebate
Conservation Landscaping with Soil Improvement	\$2 per square foot
Conservation Landscaping without Soil Improvement	\$1 per square foot

*Please note that we cannot provide a rebate over the documented dollar amount that you spent on the project.

Conservation Landscaping Requirements

- ☐ **Written approval** from the RainScapes Coordinator is required before you begin installation or construction. Projects that are partially or completely finished before approval will not qualify for rebates.
- ☐ **The project must not be located in a right-of-away or easement area.**
- ☐ **Call 1-800-MISS-UTILITY (1-800-257-7777) before you dig!**
- ☐ **Minimum size: 250 square feet.**
 - Planting plan that includes
 - sketch of the area drawn at 1' = 10', 1/8" = 1', or 1/4" = 1'
 - plant species, container size, quantities and densities
 - plant material source
 - maintenance plan
 - ¾ of the plants must be native plants or cultivars to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
 - Mulch layer of 3 to 4 inches to inhibit weed growth, prevent soil loss and retain moisture.
 - The plan must *not* include any species from the City's Invasive Species Plant List (available at <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes>)
 - No plastic sheeting (impermeable weed barrier) will be permitted in a turf conversion area.
- ☐ **Soil Improvement (higher rebate option)**
 1. **Loosen** the soil to a depth of 9-12 inches with a tiller, rake or shovel. Decompaction will be checked at the final site visit. If there are trees root in the project area, loosening soil with a tiller is not recommended as this may damage roots.
 2. **Add** 2 inches of compost to the soil.
 3. **Mix** compost into the soil using the tiller, rake or shovel.

Additional Resources:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/Chesapeake/toc.htm>

Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council
<http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/>

Montgomery County Conservation Landscaping Design Manual
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/ConservationLandscapingTechniques.pdf>